

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SS-15

PM-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SP-02

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O R 061330Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5587

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USCINCEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

S E C R E T SANA 1782

BEIRUT PASS BAGDHAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, YE

SUBJECT: DISCOVERY OF ANTI-HAMDI PLOTTING

REF: SANA 1780

1. DURING LONG CONVERSATION ON JULY 6 CONCERNING
SOVIET OFFERS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE (REFTEL), FONMIN
ABDULLA AL-ASNAG ALSO INFORMED ME THAT YARG SECURITY
DISCOVERED BY CHANCE, ON JULY 2, DAY PRESIDENT HAMDI
RETURNED FROM HIS GULF TRIP, A PACKET OF LETTERS IN SAUDI AIRLINER

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AT SANA AIRPORT FROM SHAIKH ABDULLA AL-AHMAR TO ROYALISTS

LIVING IN SAUDI ARABIA (INCLUDING EX-ROYALIST COMMANDER PRINCE MUHAMMAD BIN HUSAIN) CALLING ON THEM TO COOPERATE WITH HIM TO OVERTHROW HAMDI. ASNAG SAID THAT WHILE YARG IS NOT ACCUSING SAG OF INVOLVEMENT IN THIS PLOTTING, IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE SAG IS NOT AWARE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT. THIS IN TURN HAS LED PRESIDENT HAMDI TO CONCLUDE THAT THE SAUDIS MAY BE DELAYING ITS MODERNIZATION OF THE YEMENI ARMY IN ORDER TO GIVE THE PLOTTERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO CARRY OUT THEIR PLANS. ASNAG CONTINUED THAT SAUDIS ARE SADLY MISTAKEN IF THIS IN FACT IS THEIR INTENTION, BECAUSE HAMDI ENJOYS FULL SUPPORT OF THE ARMY AND THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE YEMENI PEOPLE. SAUDIS, OR AT LEAST "CERTAIN" ELEMENTS WITHIN THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT, WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO STOP THEIR SUPPORT OF REPUDIATED YEMENI POLITICIANS AND THROW THEIR FULL WEIGHT TO HAMDI.

2. I ASKED ASNAG WHY HE HAD NOT INFORMED ME OF THIS INFORMATION EARLIER. HE REPLIED THAT YEMENI SECURITY HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF THE LETTERS AT THE OUTSET AND HE DID NOT WANT TO PASS ON TO ME INFORMATION WHICH WAS NOT CONFIRMED. I ENQUIRED WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN TO SHAIKH AL-AHMAR, WHO IS CURRENTLY PRESIDENT OF THE CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY. HE ANSWERED PRESIDENT HAMDI DOES NOT WISH TO INDULGE IN "PUBLIC EXECUTION OF TRAITORS AS IN BEING DONE IN SOUTH YEMEN." AL-AHMAR, HOWEVER AND OTHERS LIKE HIM, WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PLAY ANY ROLE IN YEMEN'S FUTURE POLITICAL LIFE AND THE SAUDIS WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT THIS FACT IF THEY WISH TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH PRESIDENT HAMDI AND WITH THE YARG.

3. COMMENT: IF THIS INFORMATION IS TRUE AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT ITS VERACITY, AL-AHMAR'S POLITICAL ROLE IS FINISHED AT LEAST FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. HIS DISAPPEARANCE FROM THE LOCAL POLITICAL SCENE AT THIS TIME SHOULD FURTHER STRENGTHEN HAMDI'S CONTROL AS WELL AS THAT OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE. IT MAY, HOWEVER, COMPLICATE RELATIONS WITH SAG WHICH HAS LOOKED ON AL-AHMAR AS ITS CHOSEN INSTRUMENT IN YARG. SAG SHOULD REALIZE THAT THIS VAIN AND VENAL SHAIKH IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DISCREDITED IN YEMEN EVEN AMONG ZAYDI TRIBAL ELEMENTS. HAMDI IN CONTRAST IS RIDING CREST
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OF PERSONAL POPULARITY AND SUPPORT. AS ASNAG POINTS OUT, THEREFORE, SAUDIS WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO DO BUSINESS WITH HAMDI.
SCOTES

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